THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes.

Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

No. 33. SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31ST, 1914. PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

All donations in money or kind should be addressed to the Financial Secretary of the E.L.F.S. :— Miss N. L. Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS.

Sunday, Nov. 1st, 3 p.m.—Victoria Park—Miss Rickards.
8 p.m.—The Women's Hall—Miss Hodge Mrs. Walker.
Monday, Nov. 2nd, 3 p.m.—Bow, Women's Hall—
8 p.m.—Lesbia Road—Mrs. Walker.
8 p.m.—"Peacock," Freemason's Road—
8 p.m.—East India Dock Gates, Poplar—Miss Feek.
Tuesday, Nov. 3rd, 2.30 p.m.—30 Churchill Road (indoors)—Mrs. Walshe.
7.30 p.m.—Limehouse, Burdett Road—Miss Emerson.
8 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall, Railway St.—Mr. Charles Gray.
Wednesday, Nov. 4th, 8 p.m.—Priscilla Rd.—Mrs. Davies.
8 p.m.—Chrisp St.—Mrs. Rickards.
Thursday, Nov. 5th, 3 p.m. — Deacon's Vestry—
8 p.m.—Knapp Rd.—Mr. E. Duval
8 p.m.—124 Barking Road—Rev. Cyril Isherwood.
Friday, Nov. 6th, 3 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall—
8 p.m.—Canning Town, Beckton Road—Mrs. Walker.
8 p.m.—Poplar, Piggott Street—

On the last Saturday in the month (Oct. 31st) a Social is to be held in the Women's Hall, Old Ford Road, Bow. Will members who can volunteer to help in the entertainment write to Mrs. McCheyne, 55 Fairfield Road, Bow?

BABIES' OUTFITS.

We lend necessitous mothers outfits for their babies, for the first months.

With the money subscribed for finding employment, we are getting baby clothes made, and paying unemployed women for making these things. Those who would give money and materials for making baby clothes would help in one of the best possible ways. Gifts of baby clothes can be made good use of, also nightdresses, quilts, blankets and sheets for the mothers. Even old sheets can be cut up for babies' napkins.

Each baby's outfit should consist of:—

FOR BABY.

Four gowns, three flannel barrows, two flannel bands, twelve napkins, three vests and a cot blanket.

FOR MOTHER.

Two night gowns, a woollen shawl, three towels, two sheets and one pair pillowcases.

MOTHERS AND BABIES.

Nurse Hebbes has prepared us a chart for infant feeding, and this is published as a free leaflet. Mothers who wish to have it can obtain it at any of our centres.

Our milk bill increases weekly. At Old Ford Road alone, we give upwards of 130 quarts each day. We urgently need subscriptions towards it; also gifts of:—

EGGS.

For invalids and babies who are too ill to digest milk, and are given the white of egg beaten up in water.

ARROWROOT, BARLEY & RICE. BORACIC POWDER, BORACIC LINT, VASELINE, ZINC OINTMENT & BANDAGES, COD LIVER OIL & MALT.

The *London Teacher* reports that 74,663 children were fed at school in the first week of October as compared with 28,496 in the corresponding period of last year.

THE NURSERY.

The nursery at Norman House, 45 Norman Road, is now open.

The charge for a child's day in the nursery from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., including meals, is 3d.

CLOTHING STALLS.

Clothing stalls, where new and second-hand clothes may be bought at very low prices, are open at 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, on Fridays and Saturdays, at 20 Railway Street, Poplar on Saturday mornings, and at 53 St. Leonard Street on Fridays and Saturdays. We shall be glad if friends can send us any clothes for these stalls. Boots and shoes are very urgently needed.

All parcels should be sent to 400 Old Ford Road, E., addressed to Miss N. L. Smyth.

SOME OF OUR TOYS.

OUR TOY FACTORY.

The East London Federation has started a toy factory which will be run on co-operative lines.

Flat wooden toys include boy scouts, girl guides, and animals of all kinds, and cost from 6d. upwards. Our "English Baby" dolls cost 5s. 6d., and "Jap Baby" dolls 7s. 6d. life size; smaller size 3s. 6d. China and Wax dolls are not yet ready, but will be soon. Dolls' furniture may be had from 9d. and 1s. a set. Horses and other wooden toys, in the round, are cheap.

Captain Gonne has given us some designs for soldier toys. Our toys will be on show at 400 Old Ford Rd., from November 1st. A showroom will be opened shortly in the centre of London.

Mr. Walter Crane has kindly sent some prints of his drawings for Labour Cartoons and children's books to be made into jig-saw puzzles at our toy factory, prices for these puzzles may be had on application to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

NEW CENTRES.

The new centre at 14 Butcher's Road, Canning Town, has been started on a small scale. Our milk bill for the three other centres at Bow, Bromley and Poplar, is so heavy that we are obliged to go cautiously.

The Bromley centre has been moved from Crowder's Hall, Bow Road to larger premises at 53 St. Leonard Street, where a restaurant managed by Mrs. Moncrieff will be attached. For these new premises we need gifts of cupboards, cooking utensils, cups, and all sorts of kitchen things.

OUR CO-OPERATIVE BOOT FACTORY.

We have already received quite a number of orders for our co-operative boot factory. The workers will be paid, the men the usual trade union rate and the women, either the recognised rate for the work they are usually engaged in, or, if the usual rate does not reach this standard, 5d. an hour or £1 a week. They will also share out the additional profits at stated intervals.

We can thoroughly recommend the boots which will be made at our co-operative factory. Mr. Payne, who is our manager, has made boots and shoes for many members and officials of the Federation, and these have always beaten the record for wear and comfort. Price list to suit all buyers on application. We make hand-sewn and hand sew-round boots and shoes, special "Sanitary" boots and shoes, and "Natural" shoes for children as well as boots and shoes of all the cheaper kinds.

"WE WANT WORK."

The following pathetic letter is one of many that have reached us:—

Dear Miss Pankhurst,—Will you open a workroom for the poor women in Hackney Road or Mansford Street. I am a poor mother with two sons at the War and I am nearly starving. If we ask for help we are told to sell our homes. We have plenty of people coming to enquire all our business and then walking away. We want work, not charity. Whilst our sons are fighting, we are starving. Will you open a workroom this way and give poor mothers some work.

To answer a letter like this in the only effective way, we want more orders for work and money to buy materials.

We urgently need some machinery, in order to be able to do our work more cheaply and effectively. A few hundred pounds of capital just now would be of immense value in building up our toy, garment and bootmaking industries.

GARMENT MAKING.

The East London Federation undertakes the making of women's and children's underclothing, dresses, overalls, and all sorts of garments.

Christmas Puddings can be ordered at 8d. and 1s. per lb. from Miss Morgan Brown at 400 Old Ford Road, or Mrs. Richmond, 20 Railway Street, Poplar.

ENGLAND UNDER ARMS.

AN IMPRESSION.

Those of us who have been in London throughout the long nightmare of the past eleven weeks have been too much engaged to take much note of the passing of summer and the coming of the end of the year.

True, we have seen the brown grass disappearing in our parks, but it all seemed to harmonise with the khaki clad figures who have ceaselessly tramped over it—so that yesterday as I journeyed down to Aldershot, with my mind full of all that was happening, the woods of Surrey, turned to blood red by "the touch of Autumn's fiery finger upon them"—sure signs of the dying year—thrilled me as never before, with their beauty and their lesson of Hope.

I went through Farnham to Aldershot where thousands of Kitchener's army are in training—a wonderful sight—all, obviously, doing their utmost to get fit so as to be of use in their country's hour of need.

The uniforms there, are by no means all of the familiar khaki. I saw many men in the old bright red, and many more in curious garments of blue—a cross between a policeman and a convict—hurriedly made owing to the shortage of drab cloth.

My destination was Farnborough, to see my son who is in the Royal Flying Corps, whose headquarters are there, but they are wisely not open to inspection in time of War.

I went on to Frimley where the German prisoners are encamped on a wide open heath.

It is difficult to describe this wonderful and terrible place, as it is quite unlike anything else, the nearest approach to it is the monkey house at the Zoo.

I understand there are about 9,000 civilians there who are in ordinary dress, and 2,000 prisoners of war, who are in their uniforms, but I cannot vouch for the accuracy of these numbers. They are divided from each other by a wide open space, so they cannot communicate. They are enclosed in three rows of barbed wire entanglements, each about 50 yards apart. No visitors are allowed inside the outer ring. Between this and the second entanglement are stationed our soldiers, and when I passed there were about a dozen German prisoners digging a trench. All round the innermost ring of barbed wire are raised platforms at short intervals on which stand sentries with loaded rifles and fixed bayonets. At night the encampment is brilliantly lighted. There is room inside for the men to walk about, but they have no other change beyond sleeping and eating. Suffragettes who know what imprisonment means, with no news from the outside world, can realise the monotony of their lives, and when we remember that we have been told that the war will be a long business and that they may have to spend years in this terrible isolation, one feels their reason may give way.

The civilians appeared to be more active than the soldiers, as some of them were kicking a ball about, while the prisoners of war were standing in rows just inside the barbed wire which—strange irony—is "made in Germany!" I heard that some of the former are rich men and have begged to be allowed to give a half-sovereign for a halfpenny paper.

Many of our own husbands, brothers, and sons are enduring a similar fate, and these men have somewhere mothers, sweethearts, wives, sisters or children eating their hearts out at home. Truly the toll that women have to pay in time of war is a heavy one, for in addition to "the sorrowful sighing of the prisoners" in their ears, they have to carry on alone the daily struggle. I do not think that bodily suffering, terrible though it

(*Continued on page* 131, *col.* 4.)

WOMEN! JOIN THE

East London Federation of the Suffragettes —

WE NEED YOU!

I wish to become a member of the EAST LONDON FEDERATION OF THE SUFFRAGETTES.

Name.....

Address.....

I enclose 1½d. to cover membership and postage.

I enclose 4s. 4d. for a year's WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT.

Name.....

Address.....

The Woman's Dreadnought.

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes,

321 ROMAN ROAD, BOW, E.

Telephone EAST 422.

Agents:—INTERNATIONAL SUFFRAGE SHOP, 11 Adam St., Strand, W.C.; LONDON & SUBURBAN PUBLISHING Co., St. Bride's Churchyard, E.C.; Messrs. HORACE MARSHALL & Co., Temple Avenue, E.C.

Can be obtained at the Bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. SMITH and SONS, and Messrs. WILLING.

Annual Subscription: Post free, 4s. 4d.

No. 33.—Saturday, Oct. 31st, 1914.

Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service.

DOES NO ONE CARE?

In regard to the administration of the Prince of Wales's Fund in Poplar, very strange happenings have been taking place.

On August the 17th, the Mayor called the first meeting of an immense Local Representative Committee to administer the fund, on which sit all the Councillors and Guardians of the Borough.

The Ward Committees were formed by the Main Committee on August 27th. On each Ward Committee, which consists of fifteen members in all, sit the Councillors for the ward, and the Guardians for the ward. Each member of the Main Committee may choose the Ward Committee on which he or she will serve, and these, with the Councillors and Guardians, elect the other members who must be representative of the Distress Committee, the Trade Unions, the employers of labour, of religious and charitable organisations of care committees and of "special women's organisations."

The Ward Committees met and elected their secretaries, and many of them passed resolutions and instructed their Secretaries to send these up to the Main Committee, but none of these resolutions were brought forward.

Meanwhile the people in distress through the War—or a portion of them—were registering at the public libraries.

Cards with particulars of the cases registered soon began to be sent by the officials at the Town Hall to the secretaries of the Ward-Committees, with little grey canvassing books, which the secretaries passed on to the members of the Ward Committees.

The members of the Ward Committees visited and investigated every case that was sent to them, and afterwards the Ward Committee of 15 representative persons, including, be it remembered, the Councillors and Guardians for the Ward, discussed together every case. Many and many poor applicants were disqualified, for lack of sufficient proof that they were out of work through the War. 'They were chronically unemployed—they were wives, and the husband ought to register—they had had parish relief, or ought to be dealt with by the Poor Law—or their incomes were not quite minute enough to be supplemented.'

For those who passed the ordeal, at first nothing was forthcoming. The Prince of Wales's Fund had, as yet, sent no money to the Borough of Poplar. There was nothing to do but to suggest that the women should apply for work at the Labour Exchange and Distress Committee's offices, that the men should go to the Labour Exchange or the Borough Council for work on the roads, or failing these, that they should be sent by the Distress Committee to Hollesley Bay.

Most of these efforts to find employment for the people proved abortive. Out of 145 women, who in a given period, registered at the Distress Committee's office for the district, only five were recommended for employment and only one actually had work given to her. Many were refused leave to register on the ground that they should be supported by husbands, fathers or sons. Many destitute persons who were eligible for the Prince of Wales's Fund were obliged to apply to the Guardians for relief because they could not wait.

At last the Ward Committee members who revisited the cases recommended for relief heard rumours that on September 26th "a stout man in a motor car," as one of the recipients of relief said, had been going round giving out shilling food tickets, and sayng, so "the same recipient asserted, that he was doing it out of his own pocket, and I mustn't say nothing to no one." This last was probably only a piece of imagination, but it is true that the Mayor, having got a preliminary grant from the Prince of Wales's Fund, went round in a motor car to the persons whom the Ward Committees had recommended for relief, and on his "own responsibility" doled out to them, in the form of shilling food tickets, the measure of relief that to him seemed fit.

On Sept. 28th, the Main Committee met again, after a lapse of more than four weeks, and adopted the following scale of relief:—

12s. 6d. a week for one adult.
7s. 6d. each for more than one adult living together.
4s. for each child 10 to 16 years.
3s. 6d. " " 5 to 10 "
3s. " " under 5 "

with a maximum of 25s. per family, save in exceptional cases.

It was decided that the Committee co-operate with the Vacant Lots Society, in order that if the Society would provide land and furnish seeds and tools, the Committee could pay wages to unemployed men out of the Prince of Wales's fund.

Of the discision to employ men in conjunction with the Vacant Lots Society nothing more has been heard. The scale adopted by the Main Committee has not been put into practice, and the Main Committee has not since met.

Neither the Chairman nor the Secretaries of the Ward Committee have received any official notification of the Main Committee's decisions or any notification of, or copy of the scale adopted by it. Nor have they received any official notice of the scale invented by the Mayor on whose "responsibility" relief is still being sparingly handed out.

The first doles of relief having been given by the Mayor in person, subsequent doles were afterwards distributed by Borough officials. No appointments were made with the persons to be relieved, and many, chancing not to be at home when the official called, were obliged to go without their doles!

The first weeks the doles appear to have been given without any definite rule, but gradually a system has been evolved.

On October 14th the first official notification of the Mayor's procedure was sent to the Secretaries of the Ward Committees in the following letter:—

Dear Sir,—To enable me to deal with cases of urgent distress due to the War, the following regulations must be complied with.

Each case previously dealt with must be reported on in writing each week by the Ward Committee to insure that cases where work has been obtained or circumstances warrant, are removed from the list.

The reports of the Ward Committees must reach the Secretaries of the Local Representative Committee at the Council Offices not later than Wednesday evening of each week.

The relief will then be given to the recommended applicants on Friday at a time and place of which the recipient will have notice.

I must again point out to the Ward Committees that the amount placed at my disposal by the Government Committee is limited for use only in cases of urgent necessity and absolutely caused by the War. Care should be taken that only such cases are recommended, and that cases of ordinary distress which arise year after year and persons in receipt of outdoor relief do not come within the scope of the fund.

Many cases have been recommended which did not come within the object of the relief fund at all.

Yours faithfully
(Signed) A. H. WARREN, Mayor.

Gradually the members of the Ward Committees are learning the whole procedure. That relating to the Bow West Ward, on which I happen to sit, is, of course, much like that of others. It is a system of long delays.

Applications registered at the Bow Public Library between Friday and Monday in any week, reach the secretary the following Wednesday, and are at once sent to the members of the Ward Committee to be visited. On Monday the Ward Committee meets to discuss the applicants who have been visited in the meantime. The cases recommended for relief by the Ward Committee are forwarded by the secretary to the Borough Treasurer, who summons the recommended applicants to appear before two men appointed by the Mayor, who act as almoners on Friday afternoons at Bow Baths.

These arrangements have been made without consulting either the Main Committee or the Ward Committees.

When applicants appear at the Baths they are closely questioned by the almoner, and the decisions arrived at by the representative persons who have been appointed as members of the Ward Committee, may be set aside at will.

The following is a copy of the memorandum furnished by the Mayor to the almoner.

Questions to be put by officer paying Relief to verify particulars.

(1). Name.
(2). Address.
(3). Any work since last assisted?
(4). What are your present circumstances?
(5). Are any members of your family at work, if so what are their earnings?
(6). Have you had any parish relief?
(7). Are any children receiving school meals?

On the answers will depend the number of tickets to be given, the maximum being,

4s. for a man.
4s. for a woman.
1s. for a child.

In part time worker's cases, the number of tickets to be adjusted to the time out of work.

A. H. WARREN,
Mayor.

This is the cruelly, shamefully mean scale of relief invented by the Mayor.

The almoner at Bow Baths has been a trifle more generous than his instructions, and here are the actual amounts of relief given in a few absolutely authentic cases in the West Ward.

I am leaving out the names to spare pain and annoyance to those concerned.

(1) A childless widow who has been doing charing at 2s. a week since the outbreak of war, has received 2s. in food tickets for the last six weeks. One week she got nothing because she was out (either working or looking for work) when the almoner called.

(2) A single woman who lives with her widowed mother, receives the *maximum* of 4s. in food tickets. Her mother gets 5s. Old Age Pension. The two women have to live on 9s.

(3) A a widow with a boy twelve years old, gets the maximum of 5s. (4s. for herself and 1s. for child) 5s. a week with which to pay rent and maintain two human beings!

(4) Mother of three children (twins aged two, and boy three and-a-half, another baby coming), gets 8s. Her husband earns 11s. 8d. (half time). She was forgotten, or missed through being out, two weeks. Because the Ward Secretary happened to be there, the almoner allowed for the expected child last week, but said he was stretching a point to do so. Landlord has been threatening eviction, rent in arrears.

(5) Widow with three children (a baby in arms, a boy who brings home 1s. 6d. a week and a girl who has been earning sometimes 3s., sometimes 4s. and sometimes nothing. The mother was allowed first 8s., then was missed out two weeks, then 7s. She has been ill during the time and the baby has bronchitis. She is getting more than the Mayor's scale allows.

(6) Woman whose husband has gone to Australia. Child four months old. She is a book-folder, unemployed since August 15. First four weeks relief was 5s., 4s., 5s. and 3s. Last week she earned 1s. Five shillings is the maximum income allowed her on which to pay rent and keep herself and the child!

(7) Unmarried man out of work through the War. He was recommended for relief, but as the procedure is so slow and he was penniless, he was obliged to apply to the Relieving Officer in the meantime. When he appeared before the almoner at Bow Baths, he was asked "Have you had any Parish relief?" and answering truthfully "Yes," was struck off the list. A protest was made by the Ward Committee to the Mayor, who reinstated the man's name on the list, but gave no instructions to the almoner. Therefore when the almoner again asked the fateful question and the answer was "Yes" once more, the poor man was again refused relief.

In the meanwhile the Poor Law Relieving Officer has refused to relieve the man any further, telling him that his is a case for the Prince of Wales's Fund!

The cruel treatment meted out to this unfortunate man is of course merely "a mistake"—a mistake which is one of many that have arisen, because the carefully selected members of the Ward Committees are not trusted by the Mayor to fulfil the office to which they were appointed, and because these members have quietly submitted to being themselves ignored and overruled, and have raised no sufficient protest against the relief of persons in distress being based on the meanest possible of scales, and administered with most unconscionable delay.

To allow a fortnight to pass before granting relief is an outrage from which certain other Boroughs have refrained.

In Camberwell, the ward secretaries work at the place where the applicants register. Rotas of the Ward Committees meet daily, or as often as they are summoned by the secretary. Within 24 hours of registration, cases are visited, then considered by a rota of the Ward Committee, and forwarded with the Committee's recommendation to the central executive committee, of which also a rota sits each morning. Relief (i.e. food tickets) is sent down the same afternoon and taken *by the visitors* to applicants that night or the next morning.

Thus an application registered on Monday morning is visited on or before Tuesday morning, considered by a rota of the Ward Committee on Tuesday afternoon or evening, forwarded to the Central Executive for consideration on Wednesday morning, and if urgent, relieved Wednesday evening.

The relief of very urgent cases can be sanctioned over the telephone (interim relief). Single women, "living with parents" can be relieved at once pending enquiries as to why the parents have not registered.

But more serious even than the long delay, is the wickedly low scale of the ultimate relief. The excuse for not relieving on the scale decided on by the Main Local Representative Committee, which has been put forward by the Mayor—not to a regularly summoned meeting of the Committee, but told to individuals and carried by them from ear to ear,—is that the Cabinet Committee and the Prince of Wales's Fund have not sanctioned the Poplar Local Representative Committee's scale.

Even on the face of it, this excuse is inadequate. It is the duty of the Mayor to call the Committee together and to lay the facts before its members. But, the Mayor of Poplar, in relieving those of his fellow citizens who have been reduced to penury by the War, has adopted a scale which is lower even than the lowest suggested by the Cabinet Committee and the Central Committee for the Prince of Wales's Fund.

The first scale put forward by the central authorities was as follows:

6s. a week to one parent, 10s. a week to two parents, 1s. 6d. a week for each child.

This scale was at once declared on all hands to be shamefully inadequate. It was therefore withdrawn, and the following scale has been substituted for it.

10/- for one adult living alone.
14/6 for two adults living together, and 4/6 a week extra for each additional adult.
15/6 for two adults and one child.
17/- for two adults and two children.
18/6 for two adults and three children.
20/- for two adults and four or more children.
20/- to be the maximum for any household, a deduction of 6d. a week for every child receiving school meals.

This scale, too, should go. Families cannot be maintained without physical deterioration upon it. But the scale invented by the Mayor of Poplar is even worse than the one that the Cabinet Committee have been induced to withdraw!

When the Mayor's Local Representative Committee was first called together, much time was spent in discussing the representation of the various interests in the Borough. and each and all were clamorous for full share. I have been astonished to discover how unprotestingly these lately clamorous interests have allowed the functions and activities of the Main Committee to disappear. Unceasing was their vigilance when the measure of representation for their parties was in question, but they are slumbrous in matters that concern the measure of sustenance to be apportioned to the distressed.

Women, can we not rouse these defaulting committeemen from their slumbers? Can we not banish the Mayor's mean scale of doles and waiting and substitute for it something more generous and constructive?

What are we all of us going to do?

E. Sylvia Pankhurst.

BRADFORD SCALE.

The Bradford Mayor's Representative Committee has adopted the following scale of relief for persons thrown out of employment by the war:—

An adult living alone	7s. 0d.
Two adults living together each	5s. 6d.
Two or more „ „ „	5s. 0d.
Children under 14 years „	1s. 6d.
(Subject to deduction on account of food provided by Public Authorities)	
Children from 14 to 16 yrs. each	2s. 0d.

These doles are to be given in the form of food, coal, etc., and the payment of rent direct to the landlord. No "No Rent Strike" is to be allowed in Bradford, it seems. "Police action" is to be taken where "imposition" is suspected. An allowance in addition to this scale may be made for rent.

The Independent Labour Party has issued a manifesto which contains the following recommendations in regard to unemployment and distress caused by the War.

"The most remarkable difference occurs in the scales of assistance in various districts, due to the absence of a Standard Scale. Every effort should be made to secure a Common Minimum for the whole country, making allowance, of course, for difference in the cost of living as between town and country. That basic minimum we recommend should be £1 per week per household, *whether man or woman*, with additional generous payments for each child. Where the income is lower than this, whether it arises from unemployment or through the inadequate payments made by the War Office and the Admiralty to men serving with the colours, it should be made up to this basic amount. Sick pay should not be considered for the purpose of calculating these grants. This scale must also be continued to the dependents of those who may unfortunately be killed or permanently disabled in the war.

"In addition to these payments rent grants should be continued in cases where people are paying a rent of more than 4s. per week, not only in London, but also in other large centres of population.

"*The first duty of the Distress Committees is to find work at standard rates of wages for those suffering from unemployment.*"

The Prince of Wales also stated that he wished work to be given instead of doles, but at present doles only—and scanty doles indeed—are being given to workless people who go for help to the Prince of Wales' Fund.

Sir Norman Hill of Liverpool estimates that if the War lasts twelve months £55,000 must be spent by the Prince of Wales's Fund in Liverpool on the dependents of soldiers and sailors alone, to supplement the allowances they obtain from other sources.

As Liverpool has supplied only about one-fortieth of the men on service, it is inferred that for the whole country £2,000,000 will be needed for the relief of purely military distress.

Sir Norman Hill's estimate for dependents of men on service is based on the experience of the present War. His estimate for widows and orphans and disabled men, is based on the State and other allowances made to similar cases resulting from the South African War. These allowances, he says, need supplementing by 7s. a week— a modest estimate indeed. *The Times* points out that cases of widows, orphans and disabled men are not covered by a calculation extending over twelve months, and that the sum required to give 7s. a week for a lifetime is £300. As it is estimated that if the War lasts a year, 1,300 widows and orphans and disabled men will have to be provided for in Liverpool alone, the capital fund required would be £390,000 for these permanent cases.

On this basis the sum needed for the widows and orphans and disabled men all over the country would be £15,600,000. This sum would only allow 15s. a week to a widow with two children—far too little to live on comfortably—but even at that rate, the sum is too vast for private charity to raise. Here is proof indeed that the Government must provide an adequate pension scheme!

The Prince of Wales's fund in the first three months of early war enthusiasm has only raised three million pounds, and the above estimates only deal with military distress. What is to happen to the thousands of unemployed women whose numbers are growing daily?

The Nation must find work for them at a decent living wage. The Government and the Local Authorities are finding work for men and paying them at Trade Union rates. Is there really nothing that the Nation can find to pay the women a decent wage to do?

TO SOLDIERS' RELATIVES.

The War Office has issued the following statement:—"Soldiers serving at home should apply for the allowance for their dependants to their commanding officers. and any dependants who wish to make a claim should apply to the soldier himself. To prevent delay in payment in the case of soldiers serving abroad the dependants may apply direct to the paying officer instead of to the soldier. The application should be made on the form provided for the purpose, which can be obtained at any post-office."

The Army Order thus defines "dependents" for the purposes of grants under the Order:—"Such members of the soldier's family (other than wife and legitimate children and step-children) as were wholly or in part dependent upon the earnings of the soldier at the time of mobilisation, or of his enlistment if subsequent to mobilisation. In this definition 'member of a family' means:

(a) The soldier's father, mother, grandfather, grandmother, step-father, step-mother, grandson, granddaughter, brother, sister, half-brother, half-sister ('grandson' and 'granddaughter' will include illegitimate children of whom the soldier is the grandfather, and the illegitimacy of the soldier himself will not affect the position of his parents or grand-parents.

(b) A woman who has been entirely dependent on a soldier for her maintenance and who would otherwise be destitute; and children of the soldier in the charge of such person.

'Unmarried soldier' will be held to include 'widower'; and 'dependants' may include his dependant sons and daughters over the age up to which separation allowance is ordinarily issuable."

A RED HERRING.

Mr. Eliot Howard, at the Stratford Police Court, on October 24th, said that *the* trouble of the present day was the drinking amongst women, and that Parliament should consider whether public-houses should not be closed to women altogether. A large proportion of the wives and mothers of soldiers and sailors were receiving more money than they had ever been used to, and he was sorry to see that a number of them were wasting that money in public-houses.

If women should be kept out of public-houses so also should men. Statistics prove that there are five men convicted of drunkenness to one woman.

If it could be truthfully said that the paltry allowances which the Government is making to soldiers' wives and mothers are "more than a large proportion of them have ever been used to," this fact would reveal even more scandalous conditions of poverty than we believe exist.

Many soldiers' mothers have come to us who are receiving less than 5s. a week in lieu of the wages that their sons used to bring home to them before the War.

Here is a case in point. Mrs. — has a crippled son dependent on her and one son earning 10s. A third son used to give her 15s. a week, but he has gone to the War. Mrs. — received from the Soldiers' and Sailors' Association 2s. 6d. the first week, 2s. the second week, and 5s. the third, fourth, and fifth weeks since her son enlisted. Her son writes that he has allotted her 3s. 6d. a week, but of this she has not been officially notified, and so has received nothing. Even had she had the 3s. 6d. she would only have had 5s. 6d. the first week, 6s. the second week, and 8s. 6d. the third, fourth, and fifth weeks in lieu of the regular 15s. weekly which her son used to allow her.

She is not able to make ends meet on her present income and has fallen into arrears with her rent—with rising food prices the family has had to go short all round beside.

Mrs. —'s landlord has given her notice to quit and she will probably be turned out *through the War*. A pretty reward for a soldier's mother in these patriotic times!

Though the allowances to wives are larger than those to mothers, numbers of them have been kept waiting so long for the first instalments that they have suffered very great hardship in consequence. Yet women are not supposed to need the vote!

On the West Ham Mayor's Committee Alderman Davis moved that: "Amongst the many paid men investigators one woman should be appointed." His resolution was defeated.

PROTESTS AGAINST C. D. ACT PROPOSALS.

The British Dominions Woman Suffrage Union has written to Mr. Asquith, Lord Kitchener, and the Town Clerk of Plymouth, protesting against the proposal to introduce the C. D. Acts.

The Irish Women's Franchise League has pledged itself to use every effort, reinforced by militant action if necessary, to defeat any attempt to apply the C. D. Acts to Ireland.

The women of South Africa have recently won the vote for Municipal purposes.

A CORRECTION.

We stated two weeks ago that Messrs. Williams, of Leopold House, Burdett Road, were paying 1¾d. *per hour* for finishing soldier's trousers. This should have read 1¾d. *per pair*. We regret the misconception to which this statement gave rise.

(continued from front page.)

may be, can be compared to this mental strain.

I have seen and talked to many of our brave wounded soldiers in one of the military hospitals—they are all cheerful, you never hear a grumble, but they all wish the war was over, though, if needed, they will gladly go to the front again. Many have told me that the Germans to whom they have spoken are also tired of it all, and long to return to their homes.

I asked one man, who is seriously injured, if his home was too far away for his wife to come and see him. He had been telling me how he was hit by a shell and was left for three days and nights on a field before being picked up. It was obvious he was in great pain and he looked fearfully ill and emaciated, but it was only when I asked that question that the tears came into his eyes and he said, "My missis is very ill and can't come. You see I have been at the front since the beginning of the war, and she had a little one after I left, and I suppose she worried, for the little 'un died.

There is another poor fellow there who has lost both his eyes, and he was only married a fortnight before he went out to a girl of nineteen.

Dear friends in East London you know only too well what these poor women and thousands of others are suffering. Keep the Suffrage flag flying in these terrible days.

The great ideals of the Woman's Movement make all Suffragists optimists—they are the people of Eternal Hope, and they alone can keep their sisters to-day from their deadliest enemy, Despair. "Heaviness may endure for a night but joy cometh in the morning." And the morning is *ours!*

Out of the ashes of this old sad man-made world which is passing, a new world will arise in which woman, the life producer, will stand and rule side by side with man, and they together will decree that Might is *not* Right, and the weakest shall no longer go to the wall.

"Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring happy bells across the snow,
The year is going, let him go,
Ring out the false, ring in the true.
Ring out the grief that saps the mind
For those that here we see no more,
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.
Ring out old shapes of foul disease,
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold,
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace."

Edith R. Mansell-Moullin.

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

General Fund.

Mr. William Cullen 1.6, Miss Walwork 2.6, Anon. 4.4.0, Mrs. Luscomb 1.0.0, Mrs. Sorabjee 1.0.0, Miss Cregan 2.6.

For Milk and General Distress: Miss G. Dodson 2.6, Mrs. Graham 2.6, Miss E. Goodwin 1.0, Mrs. E. A. Jones 10.0, Miss M. Holman 2.6, Captain Gonne 3.0, Mrs. Jacobs 1.0.0, Mrs. Coombs 2.6, Anon. 6.0.0, Miss Bishop 1.0.0, Mrs. L. 2.0.0, A Woman Worker 2.6, Miss Emerson (collected) 2.0, "A Woman of no importance" 5.0.0, Miss Gibbs 1.0, Mrs. Forbes 1.0.0, Miss Yeoman 10.0 (weekly), Mr. Lees 2.0, Miss Phillips 11.2½, Mrs. Barfield 5.0, Miss Jones 2.0, An employed working man 10.0, Mrs. Smith 5.0.0, An American Friend 1.0.0, Miss D. Weeks 10.0, Mrs. Bull 10.0, Mr. Cope 3.9, Miss Salomonson 5.0, Mr. Brown 2.6, Mrs. Dangerfield 5.0.0, Mrs. Richmond (weekly) 5.0, H. G. 2.6, A Worker 0.6, Lady S. Smith 1.2, Lady Jenkinson 1.0.0, Mrs. Barnes 1.0, Mrs. Brodhurst Hill 4.6, Cuckoo 1.6, F. S. 1.0. Collected:—Miss Brown 6.1½, Miss Lawson 4.9½, Miss Phillips 1.5.10½, Mrs. Parsons 17.2½, Miss Ivy Parsons 2.8½, Miss Marks 12.5½, Miss Watts 7.9, Mrs. Ewers 1.2½, Miss Penn 0.8½, Miss Greenleaf 1.0, Two Friends 1.1½.

Clothes—Mrs. Gordon Sloane, Mrs. Browning, Miss G. Richard, Misses Mann, Miss M. Diplock, Miss M. A. Pelly, Miss Bishop, Miss M. Mears, Miss H. Heap, Mrs. Buckley, Mrs. Norbury, Mrs. Norris, Mrs. Russell, Mrs Woollan, Mrs. Nelson, Henry Groves, Esq., Miss Lowey, Miss Gliksten.

Woollen Garments — Mrs Mansell-Moullin.

Cots and Fenders—Mrs. Gilmour.

Apples—Mr. Frost, A Friend.

Chairs—Mrs. M. Williams, Mrs. Singer.

Table—Mrs. Singer.

Fifty Garments, Rice, Barley, Medicaments, etc.—The Baby Lover's Club.

Towels, etc.—Mrs. Capon.

Apples, etc.—Miss Tollemache.

Books, Rug—Mrs. Gordon Sloane.

Eggs—Miss A. L. Durham.

The Sale of Work organised by the Forward Cymric Suffrage Union, for distressed Welsh women and children realised the sum of £53 10s. 0d., and Mrs. Mansell-Moullin most warmly thanks all those friends who so kindly helped to make it such a success.

DISTRICT REPORTS.

BOW AND BROMLEY.

Organiser—Mrs. WATKINS.
321 Roman Road, Bow, E.

Will members please support the indoor and outdoor meetings. Now that we are not able to have a light at the stall, it will be open from 3 till 6 on Saturday. Who will volunteer to take it part of the time? A special appeal is made to members to turn up at Members' Meetings—Monday 3 p.m., and Fridays at 8 p.m. We are going to be very busy at these meetings, dressing dolls and making anything that children need, so that each child at the coming children's party may have a little present to take home. Come along to the meetings and let us all get to work!

Don't forget to bring along any pieces that can be made into dolls' clothes, or wool that can be crocheted into hats, shoes, etc.

Meetings at Victoria Park are still being held, and also in the Women's Hall on Sundays at 8 p.m. Don't forget to come and bring others with you. Who will take a regular stand one night a week at a railway station to sell the *Dreadnought* and to collect?

POPLAR.

DREADNOUGHT *Secretary*, Mrs. BIRD,
20 Railway Street.

Distress Secretary, Mrs. DRAKE.

Members are asked particularly not to forget next Saturday's Social (Oct. 31st). Tickets can be obtained from Secretary at any time or at the door, price 3d. each.

We are still in need of volunteers for paper-selling and distribution. "Business as usual" is the motto for the Country, and nobody can do greater work for the movement than working for the cause with heart and soul, each in her different way. I shall be glad to meet any members who can spare an hour even, to do any of this work, and to make arrangements accordingly. Volunteers most urgently needed for stall in Chrisp Street on Saturday evenings.

Mrs. Scurr's meeting on Friday at the Woman's Hall was well attended, a very interesting lecture was given and was much appreciated. These indoor meetings seem to bring the members more in touch with one another, and are capable of much further development. Will members therefore try and bring a friend with them to the next meeting?

94 *Dreadnoughts* sold week ending Oct. 24
Mrs. Schlette in office 70.
Distributed—Winnie Long 200, Reg. Bird 600, Master J. Crutchfield 300, Mrs. Churcher 300, Mrs. Gavino 100.

SOUTH WEST HAM.

Hon. Sec.—Mrs. DAISY PARSONS,
94 Ravenscroft Road.

Organiser: Miss MARY PHILLIPS,
Centre for Tidal Basin and Custom House—14 Butchers' Road.

The first meeting in the new centre was held on Tuesday night. Five new members were welcomed, two of whom took "Milk Fund" collecting boxes. Ten of these boxes are now out, and the members who have them are doing all they can to get them filled. There is need for everyone to work hard, for already we are giving all the milk we can possibly afford, and we are having to refuse cases because of lack of funds. Every week must be a "Self Denial week" now. One friend is paying for the room and incidental expenses connected with it. Two friends are each giving 6d. a week towards milk. Will not more follow their example and promise a certain weekly sum, however small? Each case costs at present 1s. 0½d. to 1s. 7½d. per week. Who will undertake to provide for one or more cases? All collecting boxes to be given to the Secretary or Organiser weekly, not later than Sunday night.

Members are asked not to forget that the meetings at 124 Barking Road are being continued on Thursday nights, in addition to the new meetings on Tuesdays at 14 Butcher's Road. There was never so great a need for us all to stand together and fight the Woman's battle as now.

Dreadnoughts sold last week, 84.

OTHER EAST LONDON SOCIETIES.

NORTH LONDON M. P. U.

Hon. Sec.: Mr. H. G. EVERETT.
19 St. Thomas Road, Finsbury Park.

Despite the rain and opposition, our meeting on Sunday was held as usual for about half-an-hour. Speakers are urgently needed for these meetings. Meeting as usual next Sunday at 3.30 p.m.

Two good meetings were held on Thursday and Sunday at Highbury Corner, and 18 *Dreadnoughts* were sold.

All members are urgently requested to be present at our members meeting at the above address, on Friday, November 6, at 7.30 p.m. Much important business will be discussed. All active M.P.U. members whether in N. London or not are heartily invited. Contributions urgently needed.

"DREADNOUGHT" SELLING.

Local organisers have agreed to divide districts for collecting and selling *Dreadnoughts* on Sundays as follows:—

Bow & Bromley	Westminster Abbey
"	Victoria Park
Poplar	St. Paul's Cathedral
"	Hyde Park
South West Ham	City Temple

Who will sell at the Dock Gates on Sunday mornings, and in Green Street, Bethnal Green on Sunday mornings, where there is a very busy market?

E.L.F.S. POPLAR WOMAN'S HALL

20 RAILWAY STREET.

The relief work we are doing in this hall is going on extremely well. Over 1,000 meals have been provided, consisting of dinners and soup. A great deal of this is given free in urgent cases. We often find people who will be better placed in a week or two, and the relief we grant them in the meantime is a godsend. By being "better placed," I mean that perhaps they will have obtained work, and will be able to pay for the food, as really, even when they are in work, they cannot afford to buy much with the poor money they earn, for the big hungry families that many of them have, now that the War is on and things are so dear. Boot-leather, wool, etc., have increased in price, because of the great demand of the Government for them, for the use of the soldiers. The leather, of course, they want for soldiers' boots, horses' saddles, etc., and the wool for soldiers' helmets, belts, socks, etc.

The natural consequence of this unnatural demand is that the poor have to suffer still more from want of boots and warm clothes.

This is where our welcome work comes in, and good friends have been letting us have clothes of all description which we have sold cheaply or given away in some cases. Needless to say, we can do with a great deal more, as the distress seems ever increasing. The poor mothers of the Empire who are waiting the arrival of the new born sons or daughters of the Empire, appeal to us especially, as at this time their lives should be peculiarly sacred. When we think of the terrible sacrifice of life in this cruel war, it makes us pray that women will be given justice and the power of the Vote, so that they can prevent such a state of affairs arising to make these wars possible.

We are giving milk to babies under twelve months, to expectant mothers, nursing mothers, and in cases of illness when the doctor orders it. Subscriptions are urgently needed. At the present time we are distributing 64 quarts daily at this branch which means a total of 448 quarts weekly. This branch is only one of four, the addresses of the others you will find on another page.

So you will readily understand, if you are interested, that it costs a great deal of money to keep this all going.

So please ask your friends and make a collection of clothes—baby clothes in particular—medicines, food and money, and you will be surprised at the satisfaction it will give you. Send them along to 400 Old Ford Road for the relief of distress.

We have been selling home-made jam and pickles, fish and bread, all of which the mothers have appreciated, because it has meant more food for their little ones. They can do with a great deal more of it, so kindly send your gifts along. A great deal is needed, but small gifts are welcomed.

C. DRAKE.

Members and friends are urged to apply at 20 Railway Street for collecting boxes, and to use these vigorously in order that we may, all of us, share the responsibility of keeping the work going.

TYPICAL CASES IN BROMLEY.

Sent in by Mrs. MCCHEYNE.

Mrs. B.'s husband is a costermonger, who does a day's work occasionally, sometimes only one day a week; she has 12 children, 8 going to school, six were allowed dinners at school until October 9th, when three were struck off, as the Committee thought they had had them long enough. One son at the war, two others bringing in 5 and 7 shillings a week.

Mrs. G. has 8 children, whose ages range from 14 years to two months. Her husband is a casual labourer working two or three days a week, has 7s. 6d. rent to pay and nothing coming in but a few shillings the husband earns.

Mrs. K., husband been out of work some time, five children, 13 years to six months, nothing at all coming in and 5s. 9d. rent should be paid. Mrs. K. has fits and baby very delicate.

Mrs. L. has 10 children, the eldest, 16 years, earns 6s. 6d. a week; her husband has been out of work six weeks, the youngest child (10 weeks old) is ill, so she is unable to work, nothing coming in but boy's wages. Rent which should be paid 7s. a week.

Mrs. P.'s husband has been out of work a month. She has four children, eldest 12 years, youngest 1 year 10 months, and is expecting another. Rent 6s. a week and no regular money coming in.

Mrs. R. has an invalid husband to keep and six children, the eldest (18) earns 6s. 6d. a week, the yougest, a delicate baby of three months. Three of the children have dinners at school and she herself earns 3s. a week, the total earnings being 9s. 6d. a week, out of which 6s. rent should be paid. (Mrs. McCheyne and a group of other workers are managing the Bromley centre in St. Leonard's St. The Bromley restaurant will be opened this week—another reason for needing funds).

THE QUEEN'S SWEAT SHOPS.

Out of 29 London boroughs, 87 have submitted schemes for workrooms under the Queen's Fund. This is not a large proportion, but what proportion of the unemployed women in its district will each of the workrooms employ, and what proportion of the income necessary to sustain the woman and her family will the wages paid by the workrooms provide? A woman in Hackney writes that she was only given 3s. worth of work in a week at the Queen's Workroom in that district. There are still vast numbers of women in the Hackney district who have no work to go to in spite of the Queen's workrooms. The same is true of Bow, Bromley and Poplar, and, we fear, of every other borough.

BRITISH v. BELGIAN WOMEN.

Mr. Charles Spooner, F.R.I.B.A. and Mr. Fred Rowntree are providing work for Belgian Refugees at Hammersmith. The Liberal *Daily News and Leader* says:—

"Clothes are being adapted for winter use and the Belgian women so employed are being paid at trade union rates of wages—the rule throughout the whole scheme."

Cannot the Queen's workrooms do as much for British women?

ARMY BRUSHMAKERS.

The facts which we published last week on the sweating of women employed on army contracts at Kent's Brush factory at Victoria Park, E., have created much excitement. We hear that the women employed at Kents are about to form a brushmakers' Trade Union.

A proof of the gross sweating at Kent's is furnished by the fact that Messrs. Hindes of Tabernacle Street are paying 1s. 6d. a dozen to outworkers for work for which Messrs. Kents pay 1s. 2d. to those employed in the factory and 1s. 1d. to those who work at home. Messrs. Hindes are anxious to hurry through with their order and they are taking the brushes to the worker's own door and calling for them when they are done. They also pay an additional bonus of 2s. a gross if a gross is completed in a week.

Even at Messrs. Hindes prices, the women will only earn from 13s. to 17s. a week! What shall we say of Kent?

Mr. H. D. Roberts Chairman of the Liverpool anti-sweating league reports that women employed on kit bags and military uniforms are paid 25 per cent less than the low minimum enforced by the Trade Boards Act. He says that for making 56 kit bags a woman earns less than 10s. when the various deductions are made. For making khaki uniforms a woman is paid 10s., but 1s. 6d. is deducted for thread, insurance, etc.

A WORKER'S PROTEST.

To the Editor of the
WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT.

I have had the great pleasure of attending your meeting at the Devonshire Hall on Tuesday, the 20th inst. Several points in your speech appealed to me greatly.

I am a shorthand typist and have been out of employment since the commencement of the War, but am only one of thousands, and cannot get work at any price. I have been earning a good wage and have always tried to work at a place where I could get the wage I demanded. I look through the papers every day, and on Thursday last an advertisement appeared in the *Daily Chronicle* (which I had the pleasure of handing to you) offering a wage of 4s. a week, which I think is scandalous for any British firm to offer to a British worker.

In a great number of cases parents have scraped and stinted themselves to enable a child of theirs to have a good education, and the child has often helped herself by gaining a scholarship.

Of course after giving this child a good education they want her to get a better post than having to go into a factory, and the alternatives are, either taking up the teaching profession or business routine. For the teaching profession the girl must stay at college until she passes her examinations and obtains her certificates, before she can begin to earn any money to keep herself and help her parents a little. Those who cannot afford this decide upon the business routine, in which a girl can begin to earn money after taking a course of lessons for about a year, at a cost of from £10 to £15.

Now when an employer has the audacity to pay a girl who has had such a training four shillings per week, I think he deserves to be punished for it. Some girls, who are in very bad circumstances, write and offer their services for about 12s. 6d. a week to advertisers who may be offering to pay a shorthand typist £1 (which is only a living wage). Girls do this because they have no Society of any kind to help them in a terrible crisis like this. They have to take work at any price, or starve. But of course they are spoiling the market and making it bad for their working companions.

I feel very strongly on this point, and think that if only we shorthand typists and clerks would unite together and demand a living wage the employers would have to pay it.

If we had some organisation behind us which would take up our cause, I think we might be able to make things better for ourselves and our successors, and perhaps be able to put a little money away to fall back upon at the time of any crisis, and not have to depend on the charity of Relief Funds or *Sweated Workrooms*.

Of course a shorthand typist or clerk is expected to keep up a good appearance and to dress respectably, whatever wages she earns, and when we have to help at home with as much money as we possibly can (for the majority of parents are only in poor circumstances) I think we all ought to make a stand for our wages, to enable us to clothe and feed ourselves properly, and to carry out our functions in life as we should.

I am, yours truly, E. M.

FAILING TO FIT THE PIGEON-HOLE.

Mrs. M. E. Greer, the Chairman of the Southampton Queen's Work for Women Fund Sub-committee, writing to the *Daily Chronicle* says:—

The young tailoress of 19 or 20 years we may engage to put in a 40 hours week at 3d. per hour in one of the workrooms coming under the direction of a Sub-Committee of the Mayor's Representative Committee; but for the woman who asks to be allowed to labour for that priceless pittance "While 'e 'unts for a job" the answer is "You may not earn; there is the Prince of Wales' Fund, go there and beg for a dole." Was this the Queen's idea? Does this embody the ideals of the first wife and mother of the land?

A committee of local ladies working unofficially, and innocently, and straining to bursting-point many strings of red tape, acted differently for one fortnight in a workroom open to meet immediate cases of unemployment in Southampton, and the labour market was dislocated for a week or ten days at a time, and the sewing machine and "pram" and all the little household gods that guard the home and make it a self-respecting unit of society were saved from the pawnshop round the corner more than once. . . . . The women coming under the ineligibles for the reason stated above, are to be turned away from the work rooms of the Q. W. W. Fund when they re-open on Monday next.

Printed by E. H. Williams (Regd T.U.), 232 Devons Road, Bow, E., and Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes, at their offices, 321 Roman Road, Bow, E.